

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for sharing load information between radio network controllers connected to a core network by a first standard interface (Iu) and to each other by a second standard interface (Iur) used for facilitating a macrodiversity function where data is sent via multiple Node Bs to a user equipment, said radio network controllers for operating in an environment where the radio network controllers are from a same vendor or from different vendors, comprising the steps of:

determining in said first radio network controller over said standard interface a common measurement load value and that a certain type of load condition exists from among a plurality of different types of load conditions indicative of the nature of the type of load condition in said environment where said data is sent via at least one of said multiple Node Bs connected to a first radio network controller and via at least one of said multiple Node Bs connected to a second radio network controller, signaling said second radio network controller over said standard interface that, said certain load condition exists using and including a measurement report with said common measurement load value and, in addition, that said certain type of load condition exists with a proposed action using an information element indicative thereof.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said proposed action is to restrict data flow.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an interfrequency handover.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an intersystem handover.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the proposed action is to release a radio bearer.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving the signaling from the first controller in the second controller, and for considering the certain type of load condition existing in the first radio network controller, the common measurement load value, and the proposed action, and

carrying out the proposed action or some other action in said second radio network controller in response to said signaling from the first controller considering the proposed action, the common measurement load value, and the nature of the certain type of load condition existing in the first radio network controller.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said proposed action is to restrict data flow.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an interfrequency handover.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an intersystem handover.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the proposed action is to release a radio bearer.

11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for sharing load information between radio network controllers connected to a core network (CN) by a first standard interface (Iu) and to each other by a second standard interface (Iur) used for facilitating a

macrodiversity function where data is sent via multiple Node Bs to a user equipment, said radio network controller for operating in an environment where the radio network controllers are from a same vendor or from different vendors, comprising:

means for determining in said first radio network controller a common measurement load value and that a certain type of load condition exists from among a plurality of different types of load conditions indicative of the nature of the type of load condition in said environment where said data is sent via at least one of said multiple Node Bs connected to a first radio network controller and via at least one of said multiple Node Bs connected to a second radio network controller; and

means for signaling said second radio network controller over said standard interface that said certain load condition exists using and including a measurement request report with said common measurement load value and that said certain type of load condition exists with a proposed action using an information element indicative thereof.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said proposed action is to restrict data flow.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an interfrequency handover.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an intersystem handover.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the proposed action is to release a radio bearer.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, further

comprising:

means for receiving in the second controller the signaling from the first controller, ~~and~~ for considering the certain type of load condition existing in the first radio network controller, the common measurement load value and the proposed action; and

means for carrying out the proposed action or some other action in the second controller to alleviate the overload condition in response to said signaling from the first controller considering the proposed action, the common measurement load value, and the nature of the certain type of load condition existing in the first radio network controller.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said proposed action is to restrict data flow.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an interfrequency handover.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an intersystem handover.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the proposed action is to release a radio bearer.

21. (Currently Amended) Method for sharing load information between radio network controllers connected to each other by a first standard interface (Iur) and to a same core network by a second standard interface (Iu) and for operating in an environment where the radio network controllers are from a same vendor or from different vendors, comprising the steps of:

determining in a first radio network controller a common measurement load value and that a certain type of load

condition exists from among a plurality of different types of load conditions indicative of the nature of the type of load condition, and

signaling a second radio network controller over said first standard interface that said certain type of load condition exists, using and including a measurement report with said common measurement load value and, in addition, that said certain type of load condition exists with a proposed action using an information element indicative thereof.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

receiving the signaling from the first controller in the second controller for considering the certain type of load condition existing in the first radio network controller, the common measurement load value and the proposed action, and

carrying out the proposed action or some other action considering the proposed action, the common measurement load value, and the nature of the certain type of load condition existing in the first radio network controller.

23. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for sharing load information between radio network controllers connected to each other by a first standard interface (Iur) and to a same core network by a second standard interface (Iu) and for operating in an environment where the radio network controllers are from a same vendor or from different vendors, comprising:

means for determining in a first radio network controller that a certain type of load condition exists from among a plurality of different types of load conditions indicative of the nature of the type of load condition; and

means for signaling a second radio network controller

over said first standard interface that said certain type of load condition exists, ~~using and including~~ a measurement report that said certain type of load condition exists with and with said common measurement load value a proposed action using an information element indicative thereof.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising:

means for receiving in the second controller the signaling from the first controller for considering the certain type of load condition existing in the first radio network controller, the common measurement load value and the proposed action; and

means for carrying out the proposed action ~~in the second controller to alleviate the overload condition or some other action~~ considering the proposed action, the common measurement load value, and the nature of the certain type of load condition existing in the first radio network controller.